

TABLE 12.02-29.—EXPIRATION OF MERCHANT MARINER'S DOCUMENTS ISSUED WITH NO EXPIRATION DATE¹

Expiration year				
1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
Issue Year				
1994	1993	1992	1991	1990
1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
1979	1978	1977	1976	1975
1974	1973	1972	1971	1970
1969	1968	1967	1966	1965
1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
1944	1943	1942	1941	1940
1939	1938	1937

¹ Find the year in which the merchant mariner's document was issued (Issue Year), then move up the column to find the Expiration Year. Month and day of expiration correspond to the month and day of issue.

[CGD 91-211, 59 FR 49302, Sept. 27, 1994]

Subpart 12.05—Able Seamen

§ 12.05-1 Certification required.

(a) Every person employed in a rating as able seaman on any United States vessel requiring certificated able seamen, before signing articles of agreement, shall present to the master, his or her certificate as able seaman (issued in the form of a merchant mariner's document).

(b) No certificate as able seaman is required of any person employed on any tug or towboat on the bays and sounds connected directly with the seas, or on any unrigged vessel except seagoing barges or tank barges.

(c) The following categories of able seaman are established:

- (1) Able Seaman—Any Waters, Unlimited.
- (2) Able Seaman—Limited.
- (3) Able Seaman—Special.
- (4) Able Seaman—Special (OSV).

[CGD 80-131, 45 FR 69240, Oct. 20, 1980]

§ 12.05-3 General requirements.

To qualify for certification as able seaman an applicant must:

- (a) Be at least 18 years of age;
- (b) Pass the prescribed physical examination;
- (c) Meet the sea service or training requirements set forth in this part;

(d) Pass an examination demonstrating ability as an able seaman and lifeboatman; and,

(e) Speak and understand the English language as would be required in performing the general duties of able seaman and during an emergency aboard ship.

[CGD 80-131, 45 FR 69240, Oct. 20, 1980]

§ 12.05-5 Physical requirements.

(a) All applicants for a certificate of service as able seaman shall be required to pass a physical examination given by a medical officer of the United States Public Health Service and present to the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, a certificate executed by the Public Health Service Officer. Such certificate shall attest to the applicant's acuity of vision, color sense, hearing, and general physical condition. In exceptional cases where an applicant would be put to great inconvenience or expense to appear before a medical officer of the United States Public Health Service, the physical examination and certification may be made by any other reputable physician.

(b) The medical examination for an able seaman is the same as for an original license as a deck officer as set forth in § 10.02-5 of this subchapter. If the applicant is in possession of an unexpired deck license, the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, may waive the requirement for a physical examination.

§ 12.05-7 Service or training requirements.

(a) The minimum service required to qualify an applicant for the various categories of able seaman is as listed in this paragraph.

(1) Able Seaman—Any Waters, Unlimited. Three years service on deck on vessels operating on the oceans or the Great Lakes.

(2) Able Seaman—Limited. Eighteen months service on deck in vessels of 100 gross tons or over which operate in a service not exclusively confined to the rivers and smaller inland lakes of the United States.

(3) Able Seaman—Special. Twelve months service on deck on vessels operating on the oceans, or the navigable waters of the United States including the Great Lakes.

(4) Able Seaman—Special (OSV). Six months service on deck on vessels operating on the oceans, or the navigable waters of the United States including the Great Lakes.

NOTE: Employment considerations for the various categories of able seaman are contained in § 157.20-15 of this chapter.

(b) Training programs approved by the Director, National Maritime Center, may be substituted for the required periods of service on deck as follows:

(1) A graduate of a school ship may be rated as able seaman upon satisfactory completion of the course of instruction. For this purpose, *school ship* is interpreted to mean an institution which offers a complete course of instruction, including a period of at sea training, in the skills appropriate to the rating of able seaman.

(2) Training programs, other than those classified as a school ship, may be substituted for up to one third of the required service on deck. The service/training ratio for each program is determined by the Director, National Maritime Center, who may allow a maximum of three days on deck service credit for each day of instruction.

(c) A certificate of service as *Able Seaman, Great Lakes—18 months' service*, is considered equivalent to a certificate of service as *Able Seaman—Limited*.

(d) A certificate of service as Able Seaman with the following route, vessel, or time restrictions is considered equivalent to a certificate of service as *Able Seaman—Special*:

(1) *Any waters—12 months*.

(2) *Tugs and towboats—any waters*.

(3) *Bays and sounds—12 months, vessels 500 gross tons or under not carrying passengers*.

(4) *Seagoing barges—12 months*.

(e) An individual holding a certificate of service endorsed as noted in paragraphs (c) or (d) of this section may have his or her merchant mariner's document endorsed with the equivalent category, upon request.

[CGD 80-131, 45 FR 69240, Oct. 20, 1980, as amended by CGD 95-072, 60 FR 50460, Sept. 29, 1995]

§ 12.05-9 Examination and demonstration of ability.

(a) Before an applicant is certified as an able seaman, he or she shall prove to the satisfaction of the Coast Guard by oral or other means of examination, and by actual demonstration, his or her knowledge of seamanship and the ability to carry out effectively all the duties that may be required of an able seaman, including those of a lifeboatman. The applicant shall demonstrate that he or she:

(1) Has been trained in all the operations connected with the launching of lifeboats and liferafts, and in the use of oars;

(2) Is acquainted with the practical handling of boats; and

(3) Is capable of taking command of the boat's crew.

(b) The examination, whether administered orally or by other means, must be conducted only in the English language and must consist of questions regarding:

(1) Lifeboats and liferafts, the names of their essential parts, and a description of the required equipment;

(2) The clearing away, swinging out, and lowering of lifeboats and liferafts, and handling of lifeboats under oars and sails, including questions relative to the proper handling of a boat in a heavy sea;

(3) The operation and functions of commonly used types of davits;

(4) The applicant's knowledge of nautical terms; boxing the compass, either by degrees or points according to his experience; running lights, passing signals, and fog signals for vessels on the high seas, in inland waters, or on the Great Lakes depending upon the waters on which the applicant has had service; and distress signals; and,

(5) The applicant's knowledge of commands in handling the wheel by obeying orders passed to him as *wheelman*, and knowledge of the use of engineroom telegraph or bell-pull signals.

(c) In the actual demonstration, the applicant shall show his ability by taking command of a boat and directing the operation of clearing away, swinging out, lowering the boat into the water, and acting as coxswain in charge of the boat under oars. He shall